

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-34 (cancelled)

35 (currently amended): Nozzle arrangement for releasing a treatment fluid, comprising:

a longitudinal housing with at least one fluid feed opening for feeding the treatment fluid and at least one fluid delivery opening formed in the housing for releasing the treatment fluid,

whereby in the housing a fluid channel is formed for feeding the treatment fluid from the fluid feed opening to the at least one fluid delivery opening, and whereby an inner cross-section of the fluid channel reduces moving away from the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing,

wherein

the housing is made from plastic, and at or in the nozzle arrangement at least one stiffening member made from metal and extending in the longitudinal direction of the nozzle arrangement is provided,

in the nozzle arrangement a longitudinal insert, in which a plurality of distribution openings spaced from one another in the longitudinal direction is formed, wherein the longitudinal insert is adjoining the longitudinal housing such that the plurality of distribution openings are in fluid communication with the at least one fluid delivery opening,

the insert extends within the housing and is arranged so that the fluid channel defined by the insert is in communication with the at least one fluid delivery opening via the distribution openings, in order to feed the treatment fluid from the fluid channel via the distribution openings to the at least one fluid delivery opening and

as the insert increases in thickness moving away from the fluid feed opening of the housing, the fluid channel reduces.

36 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,

wherein

the section of the fluid channel reduces continuously from the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing.

37 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,

wherein

the distribution openings of the insert are positioned congruent to the fluid delivery openings in the housing.

38 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,

wherein

the section of the fluid channel reduces from the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing from a number of sides.

39 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,

wherein

all the distribution openings have the same diameter.

40 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,

wherein

the length of the distribution openings increases from the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing.

41 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,

wherein

the length of the distribution openings of the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing is the same.

42 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein
the distribution openings have a differing diameter.

43 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 42,
wherein
the diameter of the distribution openings reduces from the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing.

44 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein
the distribution openings are provided with countersinkings on their side turned towards the fluid channel.

45 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein
the countersinkings of the distribution openings have a different depth.

46 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 45,
wherein
the depth of the countersinkings of the distribution openings increases from the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing.

47 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein
the housing is parallelepiped in shape and the stiffening member is U-shaped.

48 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,

wherein

between the at least one fluid delivery opening and the fluid channel and immediately before the at least one fluid delivery opening a storage chamber is formed for pressure distribution.

49 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 48,
wherein

the storage chamber is in the form of a recess provided in the longitudinal insert on the side of the distribution openings turned towards the at least one fluid delivery opening.

50 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 49,
wherein

all distribution openings are arranged spatially at an offset to the at least one fluid delivery opening in such a way that the treatment fluid flows out of the fluid delivery openings via the storage chamber only after at least two changes in direction.

51 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the at least one fluid feed opening is provided at a longitudinal end of the housing.

52 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the at least one fluid feed opening is provided at a middle section of the housing.

53 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

the housing has a plurality of fluid delivery openings spaced from one another in the longitudinal direction of the housing.

54 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 53,
wherein
the fluid delivery openings are slotted or round.

55 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 53,
wherein
the fluid delivery openings have the same dimensions.

56 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 53,
wherein
the fluid delivery openings have a reducing width from the fluid feed opening over
the length of the housing or a reducing diameter over the length of the housing.

57 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 53,
wherein
the fluid delivery openings are slotted and are formed in a plurality of rows offset
from one another in the housing.

58 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein
in the housing a plurality of connecting channels spaced from one another and
extending widthways in the housing are formed in the longitudinal direction of the housing,
which communicate at one end with the fluid channel in the housing and at the other with
the at least one fluid delivery opening.

59 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 35,
wherein

in a cover which is positioned on the housing, a plurality of connecting channels spaced from one another and extending widthways are formed in the longitudinal direction of the housing, the connecting channels communicating at one end with the fluid channel in the housing and at the other with the at least one fluid delivery opening.

60 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 59,
wherein
the cover is positioned with a fluid-tight seal at the housing.

61 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 58,
wherein
the connecting channels are arranged evenly spaced in the longitudinal direction of the housing.

62 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 58,
wherein
the connecting channels are distributed over the entire length of the housing.

63 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 58,
wherein
each connecting channel extends in a straight line transversely to the longitudinal direction of the housing.

64 (previously presented): Nozzle arrangement according to claim 58,
wherein
each connecting channel opens out into one of the fluid delivery openings at either side of the housing.

65 (cancelled).

66 (previously presented): A nozzle arrangement for releasing a treatment fluid comprising:

an elongated housing having a wall defining an interior with at least one fluid feed inlet for receiving the treatment fluid in a proximal end, at least one transverse fluid delivery outlet for releasing the treatment fluid, and a portion of a fluid channel for feeding the treatment fluid from the fluid feed inlet to the at least one fluid delivery outlet;

at least one stiffening member against the wall within the interior and extending along a first portion of the fluid channel; and

a longitudinal insert adjoining the wall within the interior and extending along a second portion of the fluid channel, the longitudinal insert defining a plurality of transverse distribution openings spaced from one another in a longitudinal direction such that the distribution openings are aligned with the at least one fluid delivery outlet in order to feed the treatment fluid from the fluid channel thereto and wherein the insert is wedge-shaped with a relatively narrow end near the proximal end.

67 (currently amended): Nozzle arrangement for releasing a treatment fluid, comprising:

a longitudinal housing with at least one fluid feed opening for feeding the treatment fluid and at least one fluid delivery opening formed in the housing for releasing the treatment fluid,

whereby in the housing a fluid channel is formed for feeding the treatment fluid from the fluid feed opening to the at least one fluid delivery opening, and whereby an inner cross-section of the fluid channel reduces moving away from the fluid feed opening in the longitudinal direction of the housing,

wherein

at or in the nozzle arrangement at least one stiffening member is provided which extends in the longitudinal direction of the nozzle arrangement,

within the housing, the fluid channel is defined by a first longitudinal insert and a second longitudinal insert,

the first longitudinal insert is wedge-shaped and as it increases in thickness moving away from the fluid feed opening of the housing, the fluid channel reduces,

the second longitudinal insert has a constant thickness in the longitudinal direction of the housing, and is arranged such that a plurality of distribution openings spaced from one another in the longitudinal direction is formed, and

the second longitudinal insert is arranged and extends within the housing such that the plurality of distribution openings are in fluid communication with the at least one fluid delivery opening so that the fluid channel is in communication with the at least one fluid delivery opening via the distribution openings, in order to feed the treatment fluid from the fluid channel via the distribution openings to the at least one fluid delivery opening.